

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01675 201145Z  
ACTION SS-25

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 1675

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1 & 2  
TAGS: PBOR, PORG, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE  
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON - SIILASVUO - EITAN MEETING JUNE 19

REF: (A) STATE 155008, (B) TEL AVIV 7676, (C) JERUSALEM 1665

SUMMARY: SIILASVUO HAD REASONABLY POSITIVE MEETING WITH EITAN AND OTHER SENIOR IDF OFFICERS JUNE 19. HE MADE STRONG PITCH ISRAEL SHOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH CHRISTIAN GROUPS TO FACILITATE UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT IN ALL AREAS. EITAN EXPRESSED CONVICTING THAT THIS COOPERATION WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME. INFILTRATION, ROLE OF IDF OFFICERS, IDF-LAF CONTACTS, RETURN OF BODIES AND PRISONER ALSO DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY

1. AT EITAN'S REQUEST, SIILASVUO AND PRIETO WENT TO TEL AVIV. ALSO PRESENT WERE GENERALS ADAM, GAZIT, BEN GAL AND COL. LEVINSON.

2. EITAN RAISED MATTER OF ISRAELI PRISONER ALREADY HELD BY AHMAD JIBRIL GROUP AND SEVERAL BODIES HELD BY FATAH. GOI HAD BEEN DEALING WITH RED CROSS BUT WITHOUT RESULTS.

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EITAN ASKED SIILASVUO TO INTERVENE ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. SIILASVUO SAID HE MADE NO COMMITMENT BUT WILL TRANSMIT REQUEST TO SYG. IF LATTER AGREES, SIILASVUO WILL ASK UN LIAISON OFFICER IN BEIRUT TO CONTACT PLO AND SOUND OUT THIER POSITION.

3. EITAN THEN COMPLAINED THAT ONLY ONE WEEK AFTER IDF

WITHDRAWAL, ISRAEL HAS INFORMATION THAT INFILTRATION HAS SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED AND THAT THERE APPEARS TO BE A PRACTICAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN UNIFIL AND THE PLO NOT TO OPPOSE THIS INFILTRATION PROVIDED ARMED GROUPS DO NOT ENTER VILLAGES. SIILASVUO REPLIED POSITION OF UN ON THIS MATTER HAD BEEN SET OUT IN SYG'S LETTER TO DAYAN AND QUESTIONS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO UNNY.

4. FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FROM UNNY, SIILASVUO POINTED OUT UNCOOPERATIVE ATTITUDE OF CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS AND MILITIAS TOWARD UNIFIL WAS SERIOUSLY AFFECTING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF UNIFIL AND LEBANON'S INTERNAL SITUATION AS A WHOLE. HE REMINDED EITAN LATTER HAD PREVIOUSLY URGED UN TO FOLLOW A POLICY OF CAUTION AND PATIENCE FOR A SHORT PERIOD AFTER IDF WITHDRAWAL IN THE HOPE IT WOULD FACILITATE UNIFIL'S TASKS. UN HAD FOLLOWED ISRAELI ADVICE AND ISRAEL SHOULD NOW EXERCISE ALL ITS INFLUENCE OVER THOSE GROUPS TO FACILITATE UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT IN ALL AREAS.

5. EITAN THEN MENTIONED IDF OFFICERS HAD BEEN PRESENT AT MEETINGS BETWEEN UNIFIL OFFICERS AND HADDAD WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING RELATIONS. SIILASVUO REPORTEDLY SAID SUCH ASSISTANCE WAS NOT REPEAT NOT NEEDED. MOREOVER, UNIFIL COULD NOT LEGITIMIZE THE PRESENCE OF IDF PERSONNEL IN AREAS WHICH ISRAEL WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE EVACUATED. WHEN BEN GAL COMPLAINED ERSKINE DID NOT COME TO SEE HIM ANY  
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MORE, SIILASVUO SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO USE NORMAL IDF LIAISON CHANNEL (I.E. LEVINSON). SIILASVUO SAYS HE ALSO COMPLAINED ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF COL. HAMIZRACHI, BUT ISRAELIS DEFENDED HIM.

6. SIILASVUO SAYS HE THEN MADE THE POINT THAT PRESENT DIFFICULTIES WOULD NOT EXIST IF IDF HAD HANDED AREA OVER TO UN RATHER THAN TO HADDAD AND MILITIAS. ISRAELIS TOOK STANDARD LINE THEY HAD NEVER OCCUPIED ENCLAVES SO COULD NOT HAND THEM OVER. SIILASVUO SAID UN KNEW EXACTLY WHICH AREAS HAD BEEN CONTROLLED BY CHRISTIANS PRIOR TO THE MARCH INVASION. DURING IDF OCCUPATION, CHRISTIAN AREAS HAD BEEN GREATLY EXPANDED AND MILITIAS FORMED AND ARMED (CLEAR IMPLICATION WAS THAT ISRAEL HAD CREATED PROBLEM AND SHOULD NOW TRY TO CONTAIN IT).

7. EITAN EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT COOPERATION FROM CHRISTIANS WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME, ONCE THE SENSITIVITY OF THE MILITIAS HAS DIMINISHED.

8. EITAN INDICATED ISRAEL WAS PREPARED TO CONTINUE MEETINGS WITH LAF BUT OBJECTED TO THEM BEING PUBLICIZED AS

TAKIN PLACE IN ILMAC FRAMEWORK. ISRAEL, HE SAID, HAS NOT RECOGNIZED THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT.

9. COMMENT: SIILASVUO BELIEVES THAT EITAN'S INITIATIVE AND HIS RELATIVELY FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE WERE THE RESULT OF UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S CALL TO DINITZ AND AMBASSADOR LEWIS' APPROACH TO WEIZMAN. HE IS GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC UNIFIL WILL GRADUALLY BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH A PRESENCE IN THE CHRISTIAN AREAS AND TOLD GENERAL ADAM AFTER THE MEEETING THAT THIS COULD INITIALLY BE SYMBOLIC IN SIZE. SIILASVUO BELIEVES PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN INFILTRATION IS UNIFIL'S MAJOR PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH THE MILITIAS ARE CURRENTLY THE MOST ACUTE HEADACHE. SIILASVUO ALSO REFERRED TO A PUBLIC SECRET

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DECLARATION BY THE MILITIAS CALLING THEMSELVES THE WAR COUNCIL OF THE SOUTH OPPOSING UNIFIL AND ASKING PM HOSS TO RESCIND ORDERS TO HADDAD. SIILASVUO DID NOT SEEM TO TAKE THIS DEVELOPMENT SERIOUSLY.  
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## Message Attributes

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